

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 Please amend Claims 1, 7 and 16. Following entry of the amendments
2 in this Amendment, the pending claims in the present application read as
3 follows:

4 1. (Currently Amended) An adhesive dispensing tape comprising:
5 a flexible carrier tape having a transverse width defined by first and
6 second edges of said carrier tape and a longitudinal length comprising a
7 plurality of adjoining longitudinal segments extending along the entire
8 longitudinal length of said carrier tape, each of said longitudinal segments
9 extending the entire transverse width of said flexible carrier tape; and
10 a single row of hot melt adhesive segments spaced apart along said
11 longitudinal length of said carrier tape, each of said adhesive segments in said
12 row of adhesive segments ~~having a transverse position~~ disposed on said carrier
13 tape and positioned between said first and said second edges ~~of said transverse~~
14 ~~width of said carrier tape within each of said longitudinal segments on said~~
15 ~~carrier tape, said transverse position of each of said adhesive segments being~~
16 ~~distinct from the transverse position of the adhesive segment in each~~
17 ~~immediately adjacent longitudinal segment of said carrier tape to provide a~~
18 transversely extending margin between an outer edge of the adhesive segment
19 and an adjacent one of said first and second edges of said carrier tape that is at
20 least equal to the largest transverse extent of the adhesive segment; and
21 wherein each of said adhesive segments is individually exposable to an
22 abutting planar surface when said carrier tape is transversely flexed.

1 2. (Cancelled).

1 3. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 1, wherein
2 said carrier tape has first and second release surfaces, and wherein said
3 adhesive segments adhere less strongly to said second release surface than
4 they do to said first release surface, whereby said carrier tape may be
5 unwound from a coil with said adhesive segments being retained on said first
6 release surface.

1 4. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 1, wherein
2 each of said adhesive segments are disposed at a point that is centered along
3 said transverse width of said carrier tape, wherein said adhesive segments
4 form a substantially straight line in a longitudinal direction along said carrier
5 tape.

1 5. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 1, wherein
2 said adhesive segments are disk-shaped.

1 6. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 1, wherein
2 said adhesive segments are disposed in a single row in a longitudinal direction
3 along said carrier tape.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An adhesive dispensing tape comprising:
2 a flexible carrier tape having a transverse width dimension defined by
3 first and second edges ~~extending in a transverse direction~~ of said carrier tape
4 and a length dimension extending in a longitudinal direction; and
5 a series of hot melt adhesive segments non-contiguously staggered
6 along said length of said carrier tape in the longitudinal direction, each of said
7 adhesive segments having a transverse position between said first and said

8 second edges of said transverse width of said carrier tape, ~~said transverse~~
9 ~~position of each of said adhesive segments being distinct from the transverse~~
10 ~~position of each immediately and longitudinally adjacent adhesive segment on~~
11 ~~said carrier tape~~ said adhesive segments spaced apart longitudinally along the
12 length of said carrier tape providing a longitudinally extending margin
13 between adjacent adhesive segments of a length greater than the longitudinal
14 extent of an adhesive segment, and
15 wherein each of said adhesive segments is individually exposable to an
16 abutting planar surface when said carrier tape is transversely flexed.

1 8. (Cancelled).

1 9. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 7, wherein
2 said series of said adhesive segments are substantially linearly disposed on
3 said carrier tape along the length of said carrier tape.

1 10. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 7, wherein
2 said width of said carrier tape is defined by first and second edges and wherein
3 said series of adhesive segments is located along said length of said carrier
4 tape between said first and second edges of said width of said carrier tape.

1 11. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 7, wherein
2 said carrier tape has first and second release surfaces, and wherein said
3 adhesive segments adhere less strongly to said second release surface than
4 they do to said first release surface, whereby said carrier tape may be
5 unwound from a coil with said adhesive segments being retained on said first
6 release surface.

1 12. (Previously Presented). An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in
2 Claim 11, wherein said adhesive segments have a diameter measured along
3 said first release surface and are separated in the longitudinal direction by a
4 margin at least equal to the diameter.

1 13. (Previously Presented). An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in
2 Claim 11, wherein said adhesive segments have a diameter measured along
3 said first release surface and are separated in the longitudinal direction by a
4 margin at least three times the diameter of the circular disks.

1 14. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 7, wherein
2 said adhesive segments are each disks having a generally circular
3 configuration.

1 15. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 7, wherein
2 said adhesive segments are disposed in a single row in said longitudinal
3 direction along said carrier tape.

1 16. (Currently Amended) An adhesive dispensing tape comprising:
2 a flexible carrier tape having a transverse width defined by first and
3 second edges of said carrier tape and a longitudinal length comprising a
4 plurality of adjoining longitudinal segments extending along the entire
5 longitudinal length of said carrier tape, each of said longitudinal segments
6 extending the entire transverse width of said flexible carrier tape; and
7 a plurality of spaced-apart hot melt adhesive segments distributed on
8 said carrier tape along the longitudinal length of said carrier tape, wherein at
9 least two adhesive segments are transversely and noncontiguously disposed on

10 said carrier tape and positioned between the first and second edges of said
11 flexible carrier tape within each of said longitudinal segments on said carrier
12 tape to provide a margin between an outer edge of an adhesive segment and an
13 adjacent one of said first and second edges that is at least equal to the
14 transverse extent of the adhesive segment; and
15 wherein each of said longitudinal segments contains the same number of
16 adhesive segments disposed therein.

1 17. (Cancelled).

1 18. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 16,
2 wherein said adhesive segments are disposed on said carrier tape along the
3 longitudinal length of said carrier tape in a substantially straight line.

1 19. (Cancelled).

1 20. (Original) An adhesive dispensing tape as defined in Claim 16,
2 wherein said carrier tape has first and second release surfaces, and wherein
3 said adhesive segments adhere less strongly to said second release surface
4 than they do to said first release surface, whereby said carrier tape may be
5 unwound from a coil with said adhesive segments being retained on said first
6 release surface.

1 21. (Cancelled).

1 22. (Cancelled).